

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-04 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7933

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID BB

SUBJ: COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN SYMPOSIUM

REF: STATE 221946

TO AID FOR VENEZIA

1. CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM PROPOSED BY BRITISH-NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE COULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE FOR BOTH CARRIBBEAN LDC'S AND FOR US AND OTHER DONORS. MEETING COULD PROVIDE AREA LEADERS WITH OPPORTUNITY TO ENUMERATE AND DEFINE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS, POSSIBLY SERVING TO IDENTIFY AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO JOINT ENDEAVOR, ESPECIALLY IN FIELD OF COMMON GOVERNMENT SERVICES. IT MIGHT ALSO AFFORD DONOR COUNTRIES CHANCE TO REVIEW AREA NEEDS IN LIGHT OF CURRENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF CDB AND OTHERS.

2. WE AGREE WITH KING'S ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN GRENADA, ASSOCIATED STATES AND OTHER LDC'S IN COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN. MOST OF THESE TINY TERRITORIES FACE INFLATION RATES CONSIDERABLY

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HIGHER THAN BARBADOS WHICH SAW PRICES RISE 26 PERCENT IN 1973 AND

AT ALMOST TWICE THAT RATE SO FAR IN 1974. UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS INTERNATIONALLY ARE DRYING UP POSSIBLE FOREIGN SOURCES OF INVESTMENT AND WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN DECLINE OF TOURISM. UNREST IN SOME AREAS (GRENADA, DOMINICA, ANTIGUA) HAS RESULTED IN FEWER FOREIGN VISITORS FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS. CURRENT TROUBLES OF LIAT MAY MAKE TOURISM PICTURE EVEN DARKER FOR 1974-75 SEASON. THESE FACTORS HAVE CAUSED HMG TO CONSIDER CHANGE IN AID POLICY WHICH UP TO NOW HAS BEEN TO PHASE OUT NON-CAPITAL BUDGET SUPPORT. (IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN ONLY ST. VINCENT AND ST. KITTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE BUDGET SUPPORT FOR RECURRENT EXPENSES). BRITISH NOW HAVE PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE RE-CURRENT BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO MOST OF AREA LDC'S. TOTAL UK ASSISTANCE TO COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS IN LEEWARD AND WINDWARD ISLANDS AMOUNTS TO ABOUT POUND 10 MILLION (CURRENT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO LIAT ARE ALSO BEING TAKEN OUT OF THIS TOTAL).

3. AS KING PRESENTED NO DETAILS HERE BEYOND CONTENTS OF REFTTEL, WE CANNOT OFFER ANY ENLIGHTENMENT RE SYMPOSIUM'S OBJECTIVES OR AGENDA. WE DO CONSIDER THAT IDEA HAS SUBSTANTIAL MERIT AND THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER US PARTICIPATION.
SIMMS

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